

# How Bangladesh can reverse brain drain

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Human resources are said to be one of the greatest strengths for a nation. And with one of the largest populations in the world, one would assume that through the waves of urbanisation and development, Bangladesh would soon proudly own a very rich base of talented and intellectual youth residents. However, current reality presents a picture completely different from this scenario, due to the ever-growing crisis that is brain drain.

"Brain drain" is defined as the emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a particular country to abroad. It is a perpetually damaging problem that mostly affects underdeveloped nations. And given Bangladesh falls into that category, it is no surprise that we are facing a rapidly worsening case of brain drain ourselves as time passes by. Every year, graduates from some of the best universities in the country emigrate to places like Australia, the US, Canada, England, Germany and many other prosperous nations. Some of them emigrate right after graduation, while others work for a few years before making the permanent switch. In fact, as alarming as it sounds, a recent study conducted by the World Economic Forum revealed that 82% of those aged 15-29 have voiced that they have no intention to live in Bangladesh and would rather migrate.

First of all, we cannot blame our brightest minds for wanting to settle abroad. There are numerous reasons why these people are looking for a better life elsewhere, such as poor living standards (traffic, pollution, corrupt system etc.), lack of security to life and property, absence of quality higher education at home, political instability, better-earning

potential abroad, securing the future of the next generation, etc. All of these are valid concerns, yet what cannot be ignored is that in the process Bangladesh is also losing out the services of those

who can actually bring change to our fortunes. If the best and brightest opt out, our progress as a nation will keep stagnating while others leave us behind. Even if you choose an alternative

to corporate life and seek an entrepreneurial journey instead, life in Bangladesh is certainly not easy. At present, Bangladesh is ranked a horrible 168th out of 190 countries in the "Ease

of Doing Business" index. As a business owner myself, I can tell you that the ranking is not far off the mark. Not only do we not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

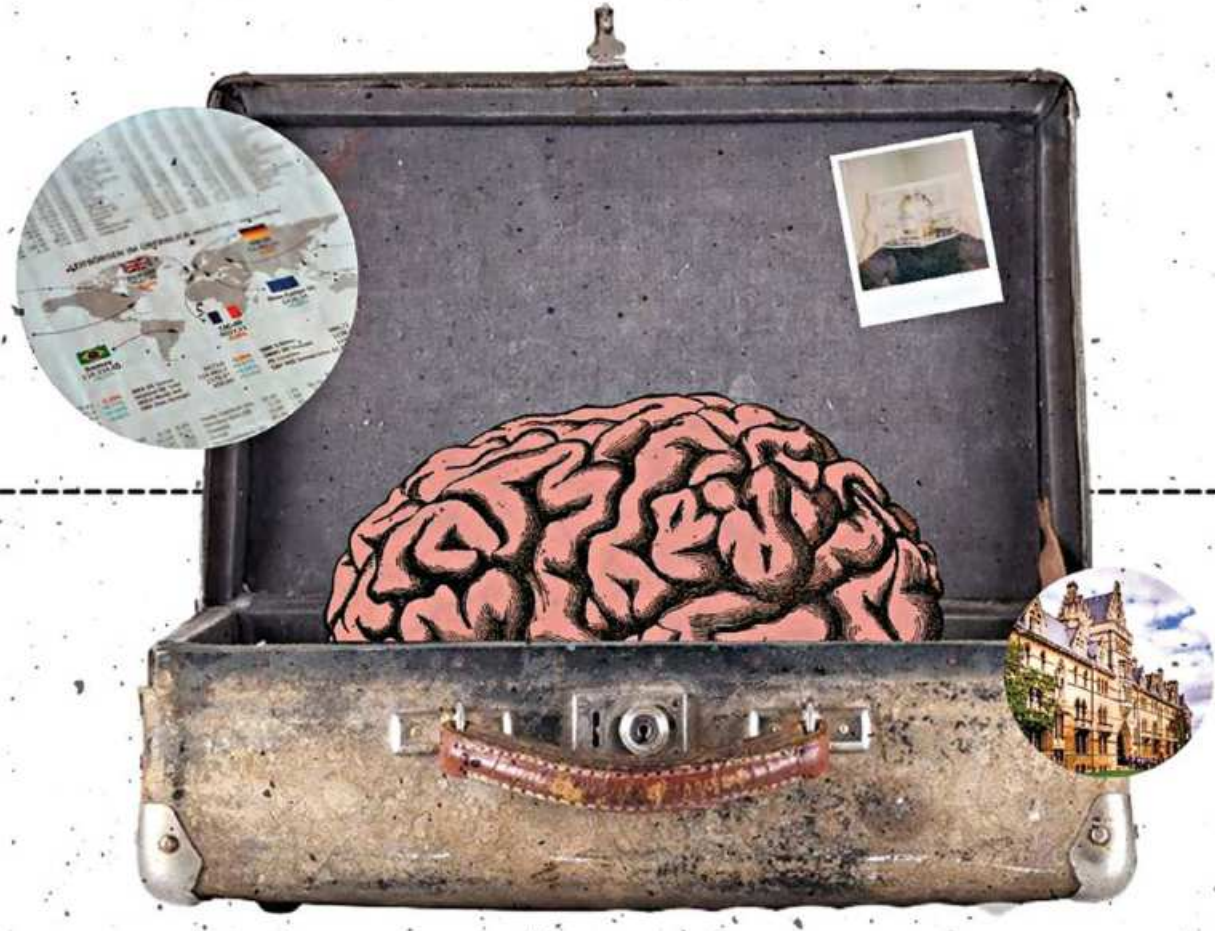


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